



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Public Notice of Application for Permit

APPLICATION NO: NWW-2008-542-B02
(ITD Key No. 09891)

APPLICANT: Idaho Transportation Department

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: July 21, 2008

21-Day Notice

COMMENTS DUE DATE: August 11, 2008

Interested parties are hereby notified an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached drawings.

APPLICANT - Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), PO Box 4700, Pocatello, Idaho 83205-4700, contact Mr. Alan Wubker at 208-239-3312. For information from the Corps of Engineers, contact Ms. Nicholle Braspennickx at 208-345-2287.

LOCATION – Harkness Creek and wetlands adjacent to the Portneuf River on US 30 between Mileposts 359.7 and 363.3 (McCammon to Crystal Springs Road), Sec. 12, T.9S., R.36E. and Secs. 7 and 18-20, T.9S., R.37E., Boise Meridian, McCammon, USGS Quadrangle, in and south of McCammon, in Bannock County, Idaho.

WORK – Discharge 10 cubic yards of concrete, pipe, and riprap below the ordinary high water line of Harkness Creek to extend an existing 6-foot culvert by 26 linear feet. The proposed pipe would fill 0.01 acre of scrub-shrub wetlands. Discharge granular fill material, rock and concrete resulting in the fill of 1.95 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands, and 0.08 acre of emergent wetlands for the proposed widening of US 30 between McCammon and Crystal Springs Road. Location and description as shown on the enclosed drawings, Sheets 1 through 9.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD - Applicant proposes to start construction in the fall of 2008 and end approximately 2 years later during the fall of 2010. The permit would authorize construction for a period of 3 years.

PURPOSE – The purpose of the project is to improve safety and capacity on US 30 between Mileposts 359.7 and 363.3 to maintain a viable route for all highway users.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – US 30 is a major truck, commuter, and recreational route between I-15 at McCammon to the Wyoming State Line. This project is approx. 3.6 miles in length and is part of a 12 mile project to improve US 30 between McCammon and Lava Hot Springs.

This portion of US 30 is considered to be substandard in terms of safety and capacity. The existing highway is a two-lane road with narrow shoulders, sharp blind curves, and provides few areas for passing. There are currently no acceleration or deceleration lanes, no turn lanes, and some of the approaches are substandard, with little to no sight distance, and are at sharp angles.

Safety would be improved by widening the road from two to four lanes, providing safe passing opportunities, incorporating acceleration and deceleration lanes, and improving approach angles at intersections and access points. The capacity would also be improved to adequately meet the demands placed on the highway by a multitude of users including heavy trucks, recreational vehicles, farming equipment and passenger vehicles.

ITD is proposing to use an existing compensatory mitigation site located on US 30 and Price Road. The mitigation site is proposed to serve for all of the US 30 improvement projects between McCammon and Lava Hot Springs. The site is located immediately adjacent to the Portneuf River, and is predominantly a wetland establishment site, with the preservation of 0.8 acre of emergent wetlands. As part of the permitted US 30 Topaz to Lava Hot Spring project, (NWW No. 002300130, issued in February 2004) 12.3 acres of the mitigation site has been built. If successful, this portion of the mitigation site will establish 4.4 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands, and 7.9 acres of emergent wetlands. This portion of the mitigation site includes 2 acres of upland buffer. See Sheet 8 for more details.

As part of the recently permitted US 30 Topaz Bridge project (NWW-2008-381-B02, issued in May 2008), ITD will establish an additional 2.32 acres of wetlands on a yet undeveloped parcel at the same mitigation site. If successful, this mitigation effort would establish an additional 0.5 acre of scrub-shrub wetlands, and 1.7 acres of emergent wetlands. This portion of the mitigation site includes 0.1 acre of upland buffer. See Sheets 8 and 9 for more details.

AREA DESCRIPTION – This project area is the north-south Portneuf River valley. It is bounded by mountains to the north and steppe terraces and mountains to the south, with floodplain terraces along both sides of the river intruded by basalt outcroppings. There are wetlands and riparian areas along both sides of the river throughout the project area. The valley is rural, consisting predominantly of agricultural lands. The valley is also a big game wintering area.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT – A total of 1.95 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands and 0.08 acre of emergent wetlands would be permanently filled as a result of the proposed road widening project.

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS - Other authorizations obtained or requested, but not necessarily limited to include a Stream Alteration Permit from the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION - This will also serve as public notice that Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) is evaluating whether to certify that the discharges of dredged and fill material proposed for this project will not violate existing water quality standards. A Department of the Army permit will not be issued until water quality certification has been issued or waived by the IDEQ, as required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. If water quality certification is not issued, waived or denied within 60 days of this public notice date, and an extension of this period is not granted to the IDEQ, certification will be considered waived. Additionally, within 30 days of this public notice, any person may provide written comments to IDEQ and/or request in writing that IDEQ provide them notice of their preliminary 401 certification decision. Comments concerning certification for this project should

be mailed to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Pocatello Regional Office, 444 Hospital Way, # 300, Idaho 83201.

CULTURAL RESOURCES – ITD coordinated with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (ISHPO) to determine if this activity will affect a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or a site that may be eligible for listing on the Register. ISHPO determined there are no eligible sites in the project area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES – ITD and Federal Highway Administration have completed a biological evaluation concerning potential effects this proposed project may have on species designated as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, (ESA) or their critical habitat. A no effect determination to listed species has been made pursuant to Section 7 of ESA.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - Preliminary review indicates the activity will not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Comments provided will be considered in preparation of an Environmental Assessment.

AUTHORITY - This permit will be issued or denied under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

EVALUATION - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. This decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, our evaluation will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS - The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

PUBLIC HEARING - Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed activity. Requests for a public hearing shall state specific reasons for holding a public hearing.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD - Interested parties are invited to provide their comments on the proposed activity, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision.

Comments should be mailed to:

**Ms. Nicholle Braspenickx
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Boise Regulatory Office
10095 W. Emerald
Boise, Idaho 83704-9754**

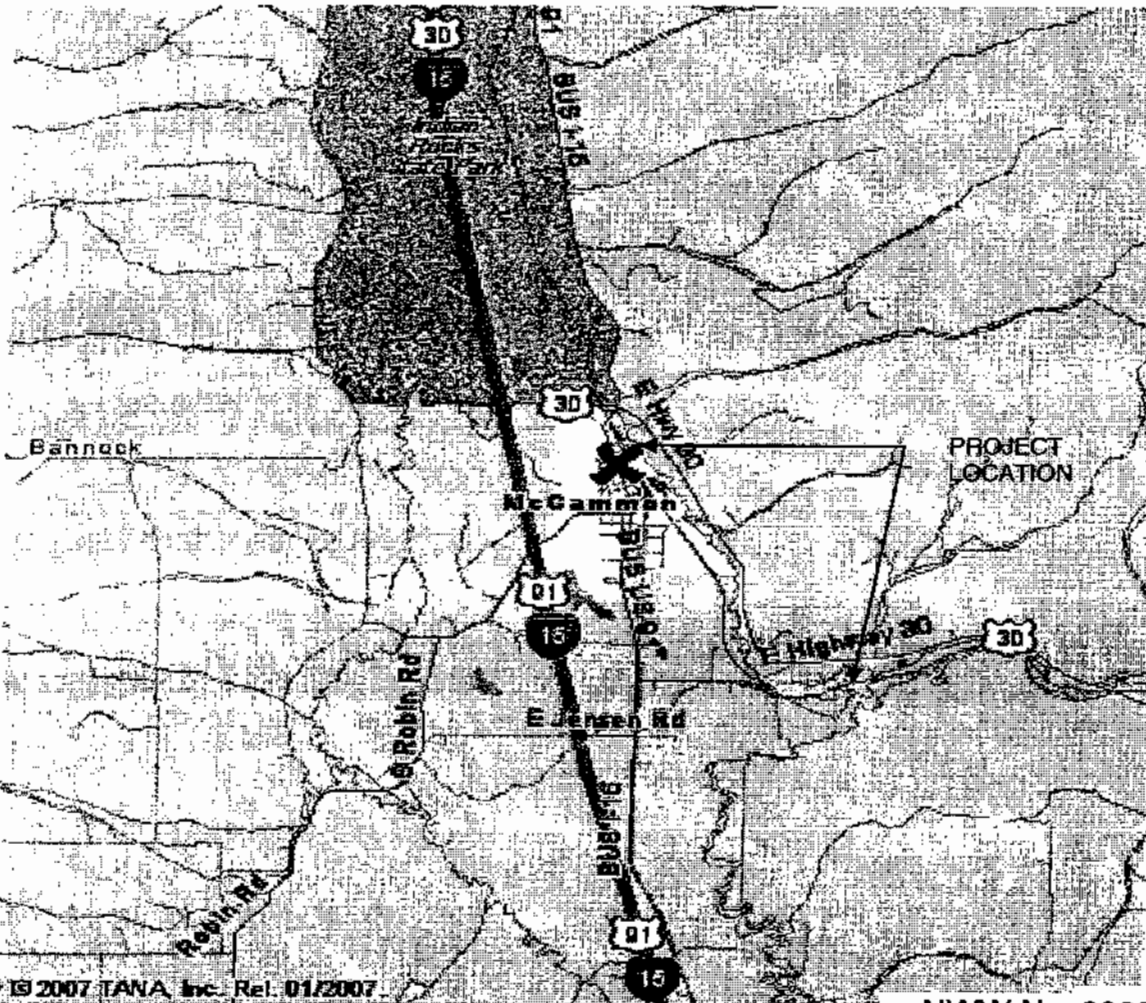
Comments should be received not later than the comments due date of this notice to receive consideration.

//signed//

A. Bradley Daly
Chief, Regulatory Division

MCCAMMON TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS RD

PROJECT NO. A009(891) KEY NO. 09891



NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

DATE: 01/07/08

SHEET 1 of 9

COUNTY: BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

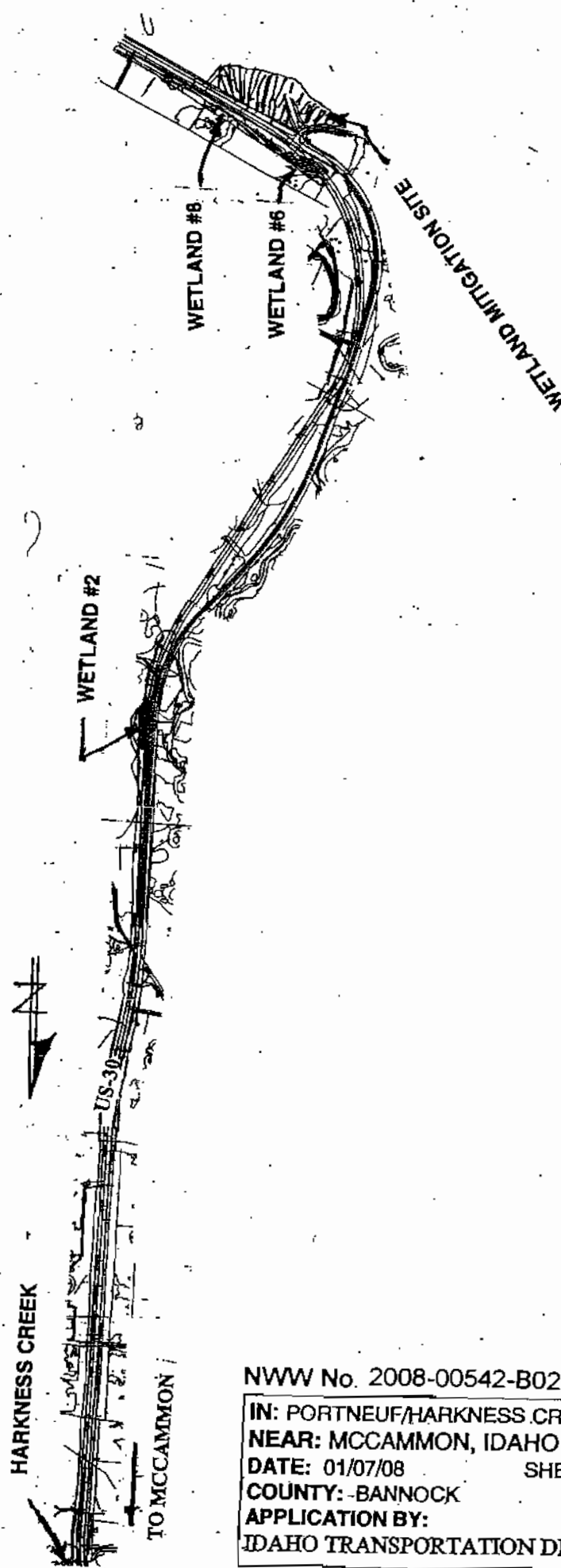
IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

PROPOSED PROJECT: THIS PROJECT IS FROM MCCAMMON TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD AND WILL WIDEN US-30 FROM TWO LANES TO FOUR LANES WITH TURN BAYS.

THIS PROJECT WILL IMPACT 2.04 ACRES OF WETLANDS AND 30 FEET OF CHANNEL IN HARKNESS CREEK. THE EXISTING CULVERT AT HARKNESS CREEK WILL BE EXTENDED 26 FEET WITH A CONCRETE HEADWALL AND RIPRAP PLACE AT THE INLET END OF THE PIPE.

MAP OF US-30 SHOWS THE IMPACT AREA LOCATIONS.

WETLAND MITIGATION WILL BE 2.32 ACRES AT THE CORNER OF PRICE ROAD AND US-30. 12.3 ACRES OF WETLANDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONSTRUCTED FOR SOME OF THESE IMPACTS.



NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

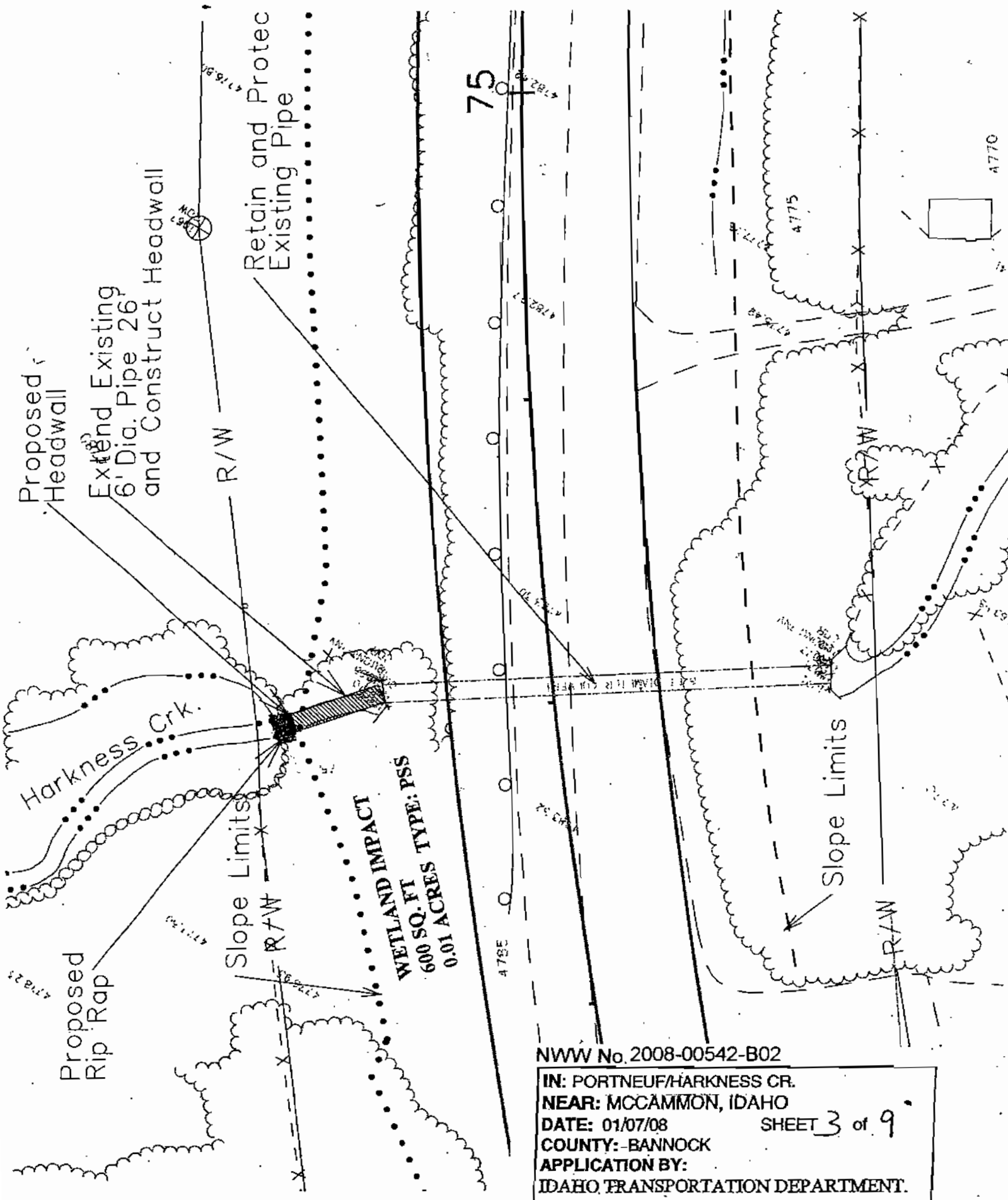
DATE: 01/07/08

SHEET 2 of 9

COUNTY: -BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.



NWWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

DATE: 01/07/08

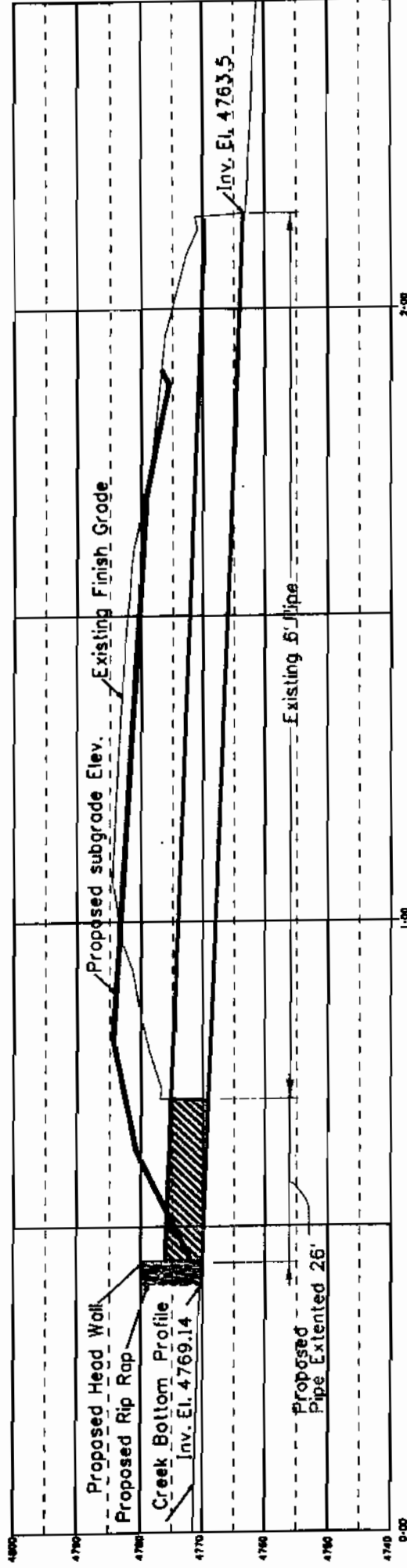
SHEET 3 of 9

COUNTY: -BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

HARKNESS CREEK US-30 MCCAMMON TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD KEY NO. 09891



NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

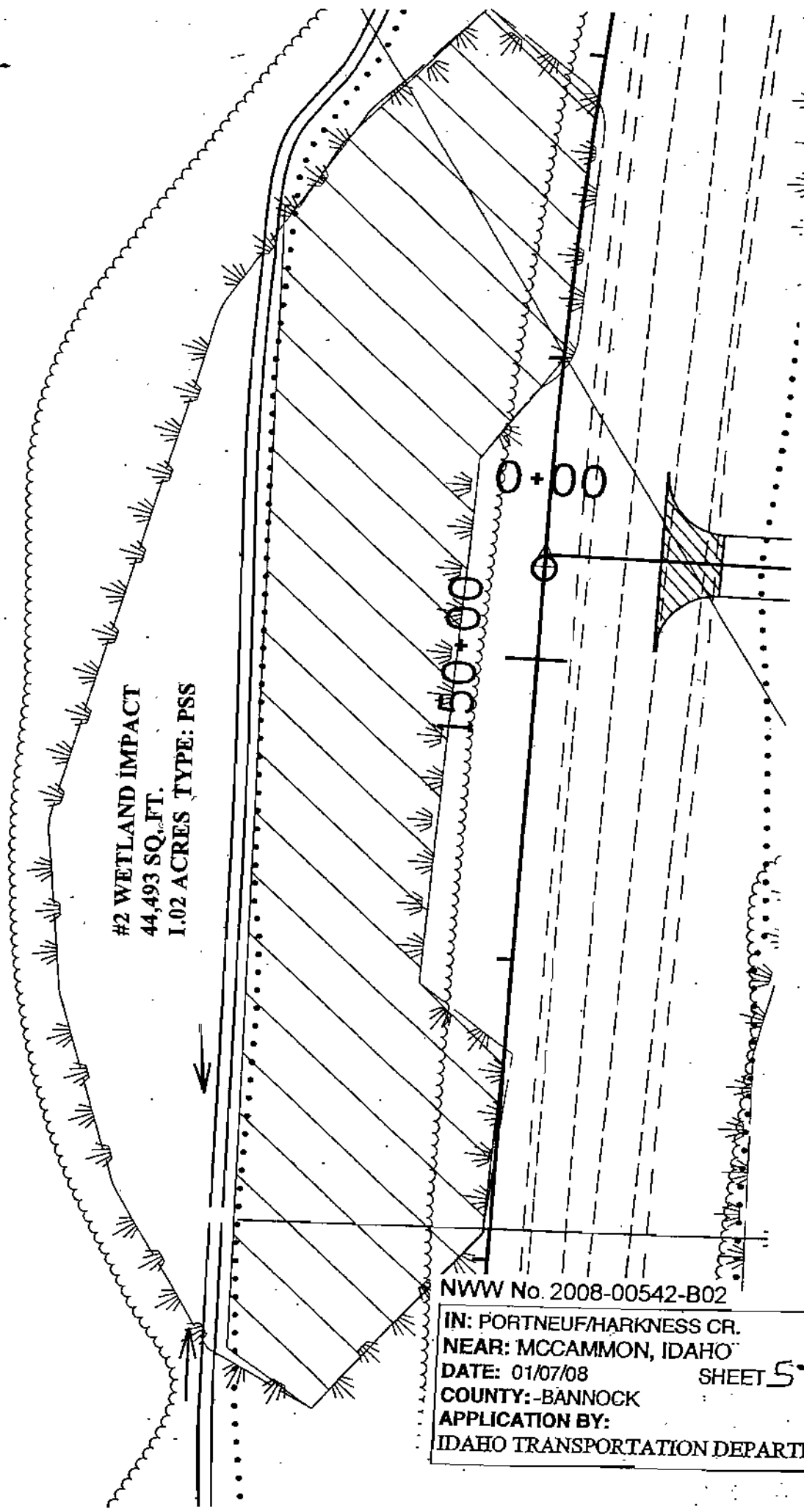
DATE: 01/07/08

COUNTY: BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

SHEET 4 of 9



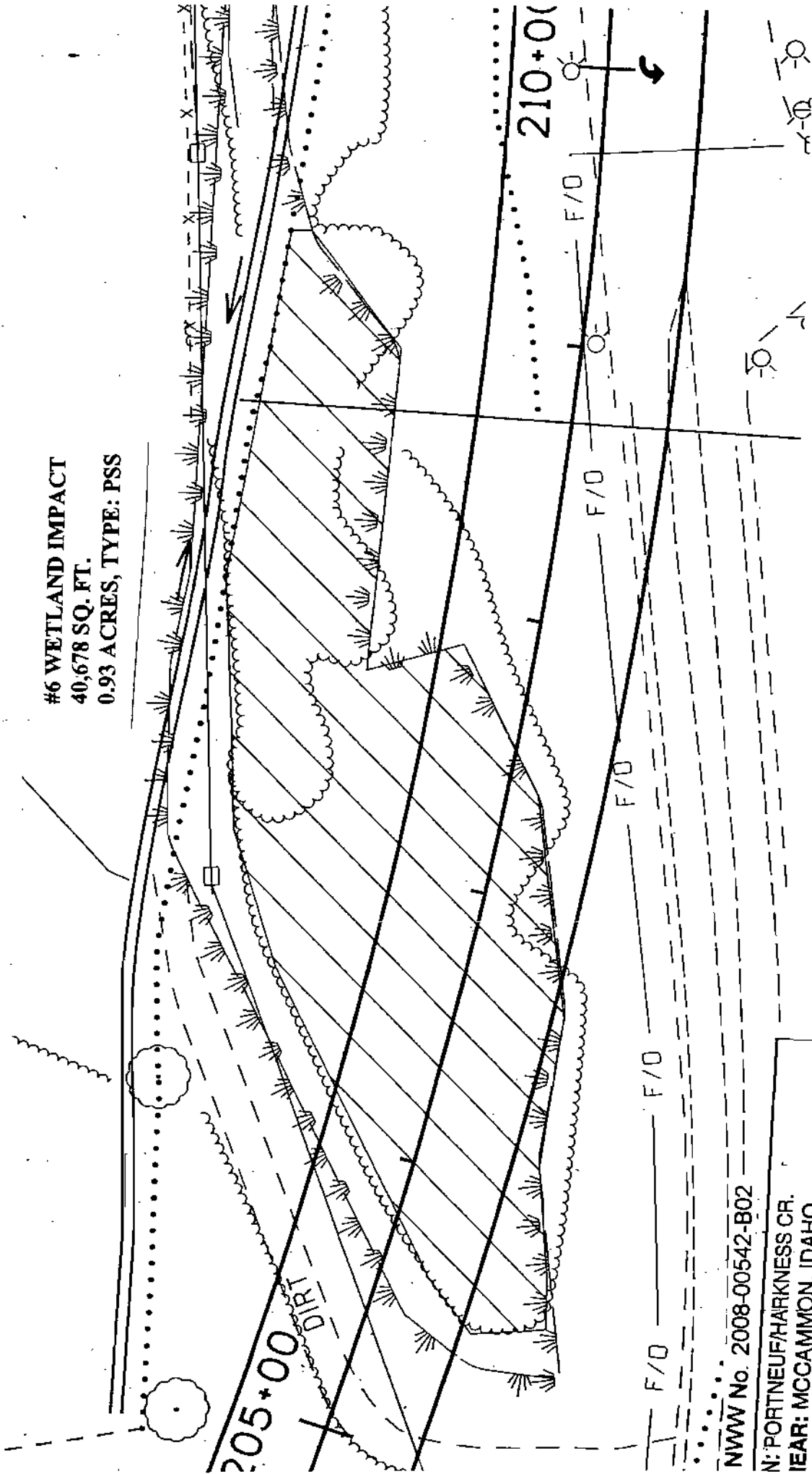
#2 WETLAND IMPACT
44,493 SQ. FT.
1.02 ACRES TYPE: PSS

NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.
NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO
DATE: 01/07/08
COUNTY: -BANNOCK
APPLICATION BY:
IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

SHEET 5 of 9

#6 WETLAND IMPACT
40,678 SQ. FT.
0.93 ACRES, TYPE: PSS



NWV No. 2008-00542-B02

NAME: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

OWNER: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

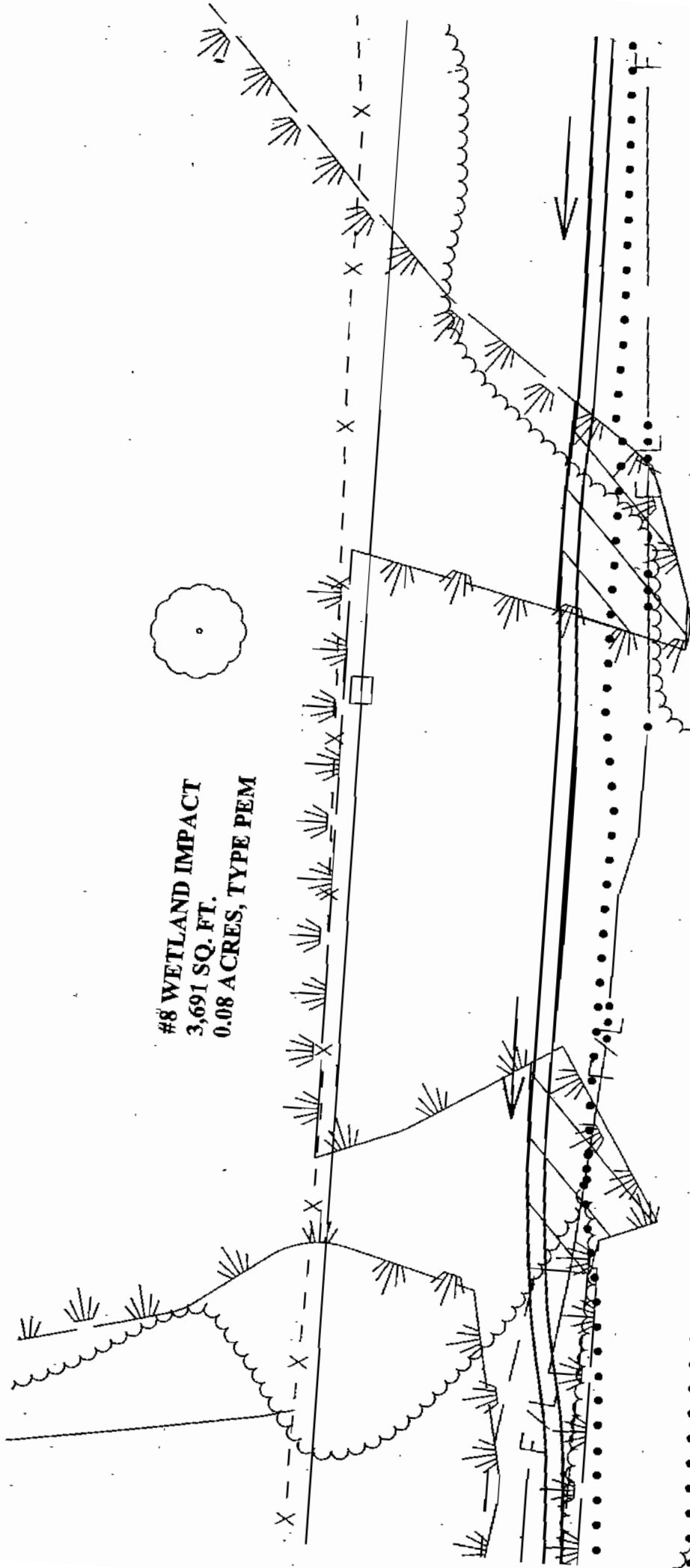
DATE: 01/07/08

COUNTY: BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

SHEET 6 of 9



#8 WETLAND IMPACT
3,691 SQ. FT.
0.08 ACRES, TYPE PEM

315+00

NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.

NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO

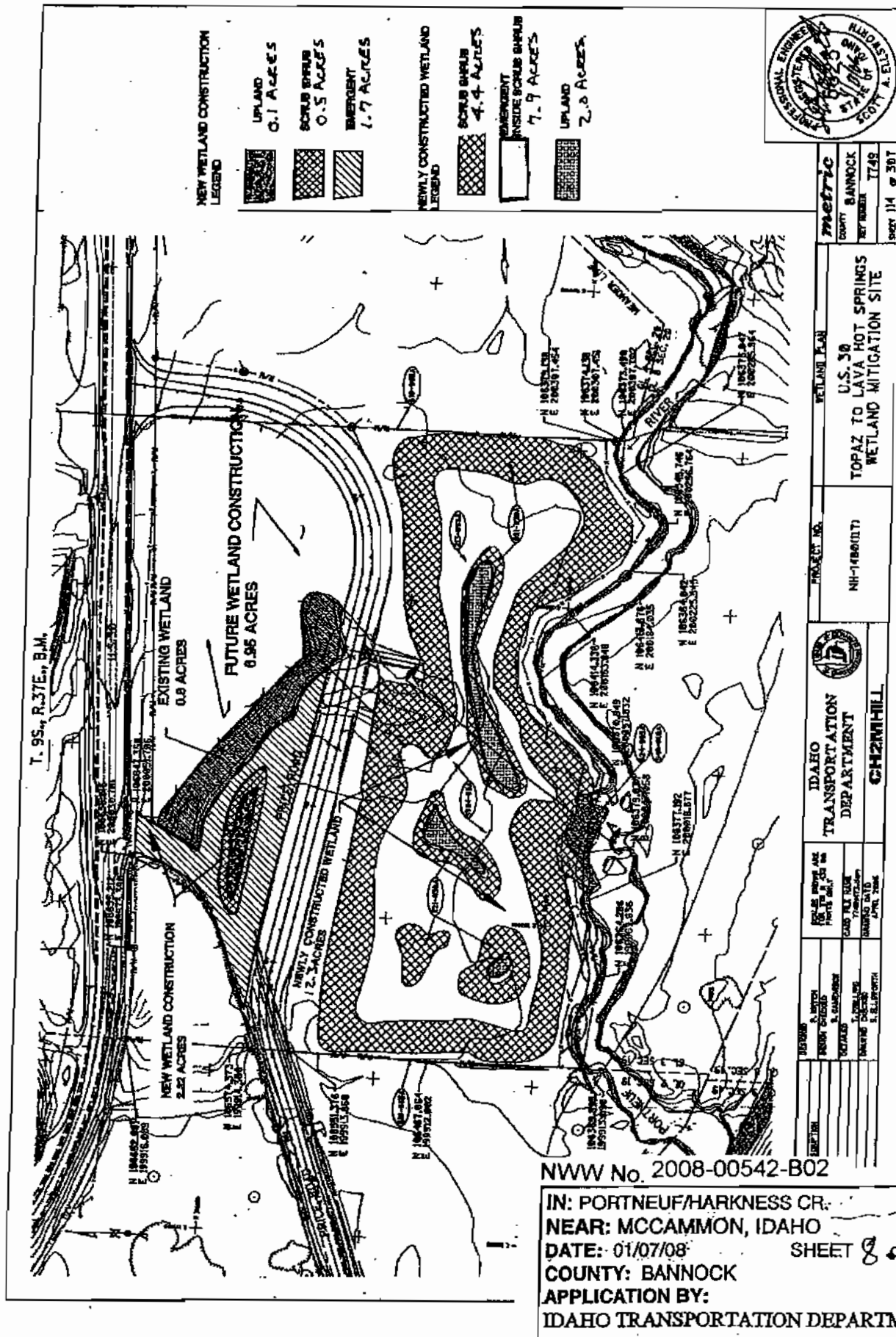
DATE: 01/07/08

COUNTY: BANNOCK

APPLICATION BY:

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

SHEET 7 of 9



NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

IN: PORTNEUF/HARKNESS CR.
 NEAR: MCCAMMON, IDAHO
 DATE: 01/07/08
 COUNTY: BANNOCK
 APPLICATION BY:
 IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

SHEET 8 of 9

Wetland Impacts for US-30, McCammon to Lava Hot Springs

Four highway projects on US-30 will impact wetlands and water bodies. Below are the impacts and mitigation for the four projects. Map of Wetland Mitigation on the next page.

Projects

| Project Name | Project |
|---|---------|
| Topaz to Lava Hot Springs(Under Construction) | A01C |
| McCammon to Crystal Springs Rd. (New) | A00E |
| Portneuf Rv. Bridges (2) (New) | A00E |
| Topaz Bridge N/S (New) | A00E |

Total Impacts by WetlandType

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| PEM | 1.32 Acres |
| PSS | 4.54 Acres |
| Water | 0.39 Acres |
| Total | 6.25 Acres |

Wetland Impacts per Project

Topaz to Lava Hot Springs (Under Construction)

| Wetland Number | Acres of Impact | Type |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------|
| #15 | 0.29 | PEM |
| #16 | 0.79 | PEM |
| #17 | 0.07 | PEM |
| Total Acres Impacted | 1.15 | |
| Open Water | 0.04 | |

McCammon To Crystal Springs Road (New Project)

| Wetland Number | Acres of Impact | Type |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------|
| #2 | 1.02 | PSS |
| #6 | 0.93 | PSS |
| #8 | 0.08 | PEM |
| Harkness Cr. | 0.01 | PSS |
| Total Acres Impacted | 2.04 | |

Portneuf Rv Bridges(2) (New Project)

| Wetland Number | Acres of Impact |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| #9 | 0.26 |
| #10 | 0.09 |
| #11 | 1.58 |
| #12.#13 | 0.42 |
| River | 0.39 |
| Total Acres Impacted | 2.74 |
| Temp. Impacts | 0.19 |

Topaz Bridge N/S (New Project)

| Wetland Number | Acres of Impact |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| #14 | 0.24 |
| Total Acres Impacted | 0.24 |
| Temp. Impacts | 0.19 |

Wetland Mitigation Site (US-30 and Price Road)

| Constructed Wetlands (To Date) | New Wetland Construction | Existing Wetland |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Uplands 2 acres | Uplands 0.1 acre | |
| PSS 4.4 acres | PSS 0.5 acres | PEM 0.8 acres |
| PEM 7.9 acres | PEM 1.7 acres | |
| Total 12.3 Ac. | Total 2.32 Acres | Total 0.8 Acres |

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Total Mit | 13. |
|------------------|------------|

NWW No. 2008-00542-B02

In: Portneuf/Harkness Creek

Near: McCammon, Idaho

Date: 7/14/2008

Sheet 9 of 9

County: Bannock

Application By: Idaho Transportation Dept.